

Amendments to the claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1-2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 18, in which the composition contains 17 β -estradiol.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 18, in which the composition contains estradiol valerate.

5-17. (canceled)

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 18, in which the composition contains from 0.5 to 1.5 mg of free estradiol per daily dose.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 18, in which the composition contains from 1.5 to 2 mg of estradiol ester per daily dose.

9-17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) A method of treating ~~correcting~~ estrogen deficiencies in menopausal women consisting in continuously orally administering without interruption to menopausal women in need thereof a composition containing from ~~0.3 to 3~~ 0.5 to 1.5 mg of an ~~estrogenic compound selected from the group consisting of~~ free estradiol and or 1.5 to 2 mg of an estradiol ester, esters and from ~~0.3~~ 0.625 to 1.25 mg of nomegestrol acetate per daily dose.

19. (currently amended) A method of reducing bone resorption ~~preventing osteoporosis~~ in menopausal women consisting in continuously orally administering without interruption to

menopausal women in need thereof a composition containing from ~~0.3 to 3~~ 0.5 to 1.5 mg of ~~an estrogenic compound selected from the group consisting of free estradiol and or 1.5 to 2 mg of estradiol ester esters~~ and from ~~0.3~~ 0.625 to 1.25 mg of norgestrol acetate per daily dose.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 19 in which the composition contains 17 β -estradiol.
21. (previously presented) The method of claim 19 in which the composition contains estradiol valerate.
- 22-24. (canceled)
25. (previously presented) The method of claim 19 in which the composition contains from 0.5 to 1.5 mg of free estradiol per daily dose.
26. (previously presented) The method of claim 19 in which the composition contains from 1.5 to 2 mg of an estradiol ester per daily dose.
- 27-30. (canceled)
31. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition for hormone replacement therapy, said composition being in oral administrable form and comprising, in combination, from ~~0.3 to 3~~ 0.5 to 1.5 mg of ~~an estrogenic compound selected from the group consisting of free estradiol and or 1.5 to 2 mg of an esterified estradiol~~ and from ~~0.3~~ 0.625 to 1.25 mg of norgestrol acetate.
32. (canceled)
33. (new) A method of preventing growth of uterine mucosa and inducing atrophy of the endometrium without inducing a secretory transformation of the endometrium in menopausal women consisting in continuously orally administering without interruption to menopausal women in need thereof a composition

containing from 0.5 to 1.5 mg of free estradiol or 1.5 to 2 mg of an estradiol ester and from 0.625 to 1.25 mg of norgestrel acetate per daily dose.

34. (new) The method of claim 33, in which the composition contains 17 β -estradiol.
35. (new) The method of claim 33, in which the composition contains estradiol valerate.
36. (new) The method of claim 33, in which the composition contains from 0.5 to 1.5 mg of the free estradiol per daily dose.
37. (new) The method of claim 33, in which the composition contains from 1.5 to 2 mg of the estradiol ester per daily dose.